

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1858
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Drug abuse among Children
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Government to prepare a National plan to curb drug, alcohol and substance abuse among children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to check the widespread menace of drug abuse among children, particularly adolescent?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.12.2016 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 906 of 2014 has given the following directions:

- i. Complete a National Survey and generate a national database within a period of six months;
- ii. Formulate and adopt a comprehensive national plan within four months, which will among other things also address the areas of immediate concern noted earlier; and
- iii. Adopt specific content in the school curriculum under the aegis of New Education Policy (NEP)

The Government has taken the following measures:

The Ministry has, in the month of August, 2016, assigned the work of conducting the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India to National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, New Delhi to be completed by 2018.

The Ministry has formulated a National Policy for Drug Demand Reduction which at present, has been referred to a Group of Ministers headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Ministry has issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories on 11.8.2016 for taking coordinated action to address the problem of drug abuse which, inter-alia, includes prevention of substance abuse among children in the country.

In addition, the Ministry implements a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" which provides financial assistance to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institution, Urban Local Bodies, etc. for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres of Addicts to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of addicts including child users.

National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in association with collaborating agencies, has been conducting awareness and capacity building programmes in schools, colleges, universities and community on ill effects of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse as a measure of preventive step. The details of the programmes being organized by the NISD during the current financial year is placed at Annexure.

Ministry of Women and Child Development have informed that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) has come into effect from 15.01.2016 repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. In the said Act, a separate chapter has been added in which stringent penalty has been imposed on whoever gives intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to a child.

With regard to specific content in the school curriculum under the aegis of New Education Policy (NEP), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) have informed that they are in the process of formulation of NEP for which it carried out nearly a year long highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process, through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations across 33 identified themes. Meetings were held with the Government of India Ministries and State Governments. The MHRD had constituted a Committee for Evolution of the NEP which submitted its report in May, 2016. Thereafter, the MHRD has formulated "Some inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016" and uploaded on its website in which policy initiatives viz. protection of rights of the child & adolescent regarding prevention of substance abuse etc. has been incorporated. Further, comments/suggestions were invited from all Government of India Ministries, State Governments, Members of Parliament and other stakeholders upto 30th September, 2016. An "Education Dialogue" was also organized with the Hon'ble MPs to discuss the suggestions and to elicit their views. A committee under an eminent educationist will be appointed to prepare final draft NEP.

At this stage, NEP is currently under formulation and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court relating to adoption of specific contents

in school curriculum on drugs and alcoholism under the NEP will be duly considered.